

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2042

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5132

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 68117

1. GIVEN TEMCO SITUATION, RECENT RTG STATEMENTS ON PRECIPITATE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES, EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, AND OTHER POLITICAL STRESSES, WE NOW THINK IT ESSENTIAL THAT USG NOT RPT NOT STIFF-ARM RTG BID FOR CIVAIR TALKSIN BANGKOK, EVEN IF WE MUST FACE UP TO ALMOST CERTAIN BREAKDOWN. REFUSAL TO TALK COULD ONLY PROVOKE SOME THAI LEADERS INTO STRIKING SELF-RIGHTEOUS ATTITUDES, AT OUR EXPENSE.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GRANTING TOKYO (FUKUOKA-GUAM RIGHTS AT THIS TIME WOULD SUDDENLY RELIEVE ALL OR EVEN MOST OF THE OF THE OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PRESSURES THAT WE ARE UNDER IN THE WIDER U.S.-THAI RELATIONSHIP. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR CONCESSIONS WE HAVE MADE TO THE THAI DESIRE THAT WE EMPHASIZE THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE BILATERAL RELATINSHIP. THIS CONCESSION SHOULD GIVE US SOME BREATHING SPACE IN THE SHORT TERM, AND BE BENEFICIAL OVER THE LONGER TERM. THE ONUS IS ON US TO PREVENT THE CURRENT SPECIFIC IRRITANTS FROM DEGENERATING INTO A WIDER ANTI-AMERICANISM THAT
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WOULD BE AN UNNECESSARY TRAGEDY IN OUR LONG AND FRIENDLY

BILATERAL RELATINSHIP.

3. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE GRANT OF ADDITIONAL RIGHTS TO RTG IS ESSENTIAL QUID PRO QUO TO RETAIN EXISTING TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR U.S. CARRIERS HERE, I.E., WE BELIEVE RTG IS PREPARED TO CUTBACK PAA'S ROUND-THE-WORLD SERVICES, AS WELL AS ALL-CARGO SERVICES BY PAA AND FLYING TIGER, IF WE CANNOT MEET MINIMUM THAI OBJECTIVES.

4. WE ASSUME THAT IN TALKS HERE THAIDEL WOULD MAKE CLEAR TO USDEL THE COURSE OF ACTION RTG WOULD INTEND TO FOLLOW IN ABSENCE USG WILLINGNESS TO GRANT ADDITIONAL ROUTE RIGHTS ACCEPTABLE TO THE THAI. IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, PAA MIGHT DECIDE ITS INTERESTS (AND THOSE OF FLYING TIGER) WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY MODERATING ITS POSITION ON ROUTE RIGHTS FOR RTG. IF NOT, WE WOULD ALL SIMPLY HAVE TO TRY TO WEIGH THE RELATIVE POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL CONSEQUENCES.

5. PLEASE ADVISE NAMES OF MEMBERS OF DELEGATION AND TIME OF ARRIVAL ASAP SO THAT WE MAY INFORM RTG. MASTERS

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